

May 31, 1991

LB 783A, 783

**SPEAKER BAACK:** Yes, Madam President and colleagues, we will...right now we will go to LB 783A. That's the only bill on Select File that doesn't have any amendments on. So we're going to start with that one and then we'll go right down the list of Select File.

**PRESIDENT MOUL:** Thank you, Speaker Baack. Mr. Clerk.

**CLERK:** Madam President, LB 783A, Senator Wickersham had an amendment to the bill that was adopted. It was discussed on May 28th. I have nothing further pending at this time.

**PRESIDENT MOUL:** Senator Kristensen, followed by Senator Chambers.

**SENATOR KRISTENSEN:** Thank you, Madam President, and members of the body, Senator Wickersham, if I could...I assume that you're up looking like you're ready to speak and so I will have my dialogue with you. It's been now a couple of days since we last debated the bill, could you give us an update on the negotiations? Are there any? What's the status of them? And then the second part and the only other question I really have is you made some comment that even if the purchase didn't go through that we may need LB 783 at some point in time as a vehicle to deal with the abandonment and I guess I was curious as to what that was and, after reading the paper about Congressman Barrett and a few others getting involved in the issue, would any of this money be used to fight the abandonment with? And those are really my only two questions and you can have the remainder of my time.

**SENATOR WICKERSHAM:** Okay. No, the appropriation could not, in my understanding anyway, be used to fight the abandonment. That isn't...those aren't the purposes that are set out in LB 783 for the Railway Council. The money is appropriated for use by the Railway Council and I don't consider that the opposition of abandonments to be within the scope of what's authorized there. You ask about the status of negotiations. There have been contacts again with the C&NW. Those contacts have been rather noncommittal. But the negotiations may resume at some time in the future. I considered LB 783 and 783A necessary in the abandonment process so that if we pass both, the State of Nebraska will be able to appear in the abandonment process, describe the agreement that we had reached with the C&NW